Banking Enquiry Committee.

15. Early in December last, the Government appointed a Banking Enquiry Committee with the Registrar of Co-operative Societies as President, and with members representing varied interests like agriculture, industries, commerce, planting and indigenous and joint stock banking in the State. The committee is to work mainly on the lines of and in co-ordination with the Banking Enquiry Committees in British India. The enquiry is to be conducted with a view to make recommendations for the healthy development of both indigenous and joint stock banking with special reference to the needs of agriculture, commerce and industry. The committee has already begun its work, issued a questionnaire and started collecting useful data. At the instance of the committee, the Government have sanctioned the carrying out of an intensive survey in a few selected areas, as regards agricultural indebtedness and the measures to be adopted to increase the credit facilities available to agriculturists. Three Inspectors each from the Co-operative and Agricultural Departments possessing knowledge of local economic conditions have been deputed to conduct the survey in seventeen typical areas selected. The committee's work is not confined to the circumscribed sphere assigned to the Provincial Committees in British India, but is co-extensive with that of the Central Committee there. Government trust that the committee will have the full support and co-operation of the people in its useful work.

Census.

16. A census of the population is proposed to be taken simultaneously with the all-India Census in February 1931. Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai, Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, has been appointed Census Commissioner. It is proposed also to collect, along with the usual census statistics, some data relating to the economic condition of the people. A Census Bill will be placed before the Legislative Council at an early date.

Motor Traffic.

17. In recent years, there has been a large increase in the volume of motor traffic on our roads. Some idea of the increase can be formed from the fact that, while, in 1101, 288 motor vehicles were plying for hire and 201 motor vehicles were newly registered, their numbers had risen to 1,334 and 675, respectively, in 1104. The number of driving licenses issued in 1104 was 7,673, nearly seven times that in 1101. With this vast increase in motor traffic, it has become necessary to improve our roads. The widening of the main roads in many places, the easing of corners and the straightening of bends were carried out on a fairly large scale during the past few months. The maintenance allotment for the Trivandrum-Nagercoil road, which is said to bear for its length the heaviest bus traffic in the whole of India, was substantially increased. A scheme for organising a separate branch of the Police Department for the control of traffic is engaging the attention of the Government.

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